

UNC Asheville *Family News*

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Doc Watson, Les Purce To Be Honored at Commencement

Mountain music patriarch Doc Watson and higher education innovator Les Purce will be guests of honor at Commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 16, at 9:30 a.m. on the University Quadrangle. About 640 students are candidates for degrees.

Both Purce, president of Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., and Watauga County native Watson will receive the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Purce will deliver the Commencement address. He is well known as a champion of academic programs that educate students about social justice issues through the liberal arts and sciences, and as a proponent of community engagement and sustainability.

Recipient of the National Medal of Arts, National Heritage Fellowship and eight Grammy Awards, Doc Watson blends traditional Appalachian music with bluegrass, country, gospel and blues to create a unique style and repertoire. The legendary musician hosts the annual Merle Watson Memorial Festival in Wilkesboro, which honors his late son and playing partner.

Guest seating on the Quad begins at 7:30 a.m. Tickets are not required.

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"Welcome to our living room" — Cutting the ribbon on the Intercultural Center (L-R): Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Bill Haggard, Chancellor Anne Ponder, Deborah Miles (Center for Diversity Education director), student Jerome Hughes, Rory James (Intercultural Center director), and students Jennie Burrowes, Asha Purohit and Alikhan Salehi.

Intercultural Center Opens in Highsmith

About 100 students, faculty and staff gathered Feb. 19 in Highsmith University Union for the grand opening of the long-awaited Intercultural Center. "We've heard a lot about diversity on our campus, and now we have a place that complements the work many of us have been doing individually. The Intercultural Center is a place to come, to belong and to collaborate," Chancellor **Anne Ponder** said.

The center in Highsmith's lower level offers comfortable spaces for meetings, social events and programs, and for the offices of IC Director **Rory James** and Center for Diversity Education Director **Deborah Miles**. "I envision the IC as a place where Alliance, Black Student Association, International Student Association, Asian Students in Asheville (ASIA), Hispanic Outreach for Learning Access (HOLA), and Hillel can work toward an involved community," James said.

"I hope we can take what we learn here out into the community as our vision of peace, justice, equality and inclusion," Miles said. "Welcome to our living room."

Student leader **Alikhan Salehi** '10 (Sociology) said, "This will be our place to feel at home, where we can feel free to practice our cultures."

www.unca.edu/studentaffairs

Family Weekend Save the date...

Friday–Sunday,
Sept. 11–13, 2009

www.unca.edu/family

National Parents Council

Allison Brandy & David Scruggs
(Gillian Scruggs, '11)
Winston-Salem

John and Barbara Dower
(Robert Dower '12)
Raleigh

Becky Doyle
(Kelly '09 and Liz Doyle '10)
Asheville

Lilly Driver
(Heather Driver '11)
Cherokee

Marilyn and Mitchell Eudy
(Virginia Eudy '11)
Monroe

Sherry & Greg Glance
(Sara Glance '09)
Candler

Carla & David Greenfield
(Allison Greenfield '09)
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Jose-Marie Griffiths & Don King
(Rhannon King '12)
Chapel Hill

Vikki & Ken Grodner
(Stirling Grodner '09)
Mountain Brook, Ala.

Lisa Isenhour
(Sara Drum '12)
Hickory

Joyce Watkins King & Gary King
(Savannah King '11)
Raleigh

Steve Mills
(Peter Mills '09)
Chapel Hill

Margy Murphy & John Erwin
(Caitlin Erwin '09)
Candler

Joel & Obiageli Okoli
(Chioma '11)
Snellville, Ga.

Pam & King Prather
(Lindsey Prather '10, Nicholas Prather '09, Rachel Prather '10)
Cary

Laura & Chris Privalle
(Casey Privalle '10)
Durham

Ex-Officio Members:

Anne Ponder
Chancellor

Bill Haggard
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Calvin Kelly
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Students Affairs

Mary Chakales
Director of Special Programs

Rebecca Lamb
Director of Annual Giving

Jamye Cooper
Major Gifts Officer
Please contact us with your suggestions, questions or concerns:

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Mary Chakales, Director

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Student Affairs Update

Hats Off to Our Parents and Families

Welcome to the new, redesigned *Family News*! As we look for ways to conserve and “work smart” during tight budget times, we want to maintain our communication with parents and families but in the most efficient, responsible manner possible. So, we streamlined our newsletter, which will come to you twice a year, in April and August. You also will receive other UNC Asheville publications that highlight our student and faculty accomplishments, showcase our involvement in the Asheville community, and keep you abreast of campus events.

As another year winds down, we in Student Affairs are busier than ever, with special activities and celebrations leading up to Commencement on May 16. Our annual Academic and Leadership Awards ceremony April 28, when we recognize our students' many accomplishments, is always a highlight.

We appreciate all parents and families for your wonderful support. Through the

Parents Fund, you help give students many “extras” that enhance their UNC Asheville experience. Thanks to your generosity, student photography graces the Study Abroad Office, two students will conduct summer research with support from Parents Fund Partnership Grants, and Writing Center consultants received expert training this fall. The “How to Find a Job in Charlotte” workshop was made possible by the Parents Fund. Your gifts make our students' experience richer!

Please visit the UNC Asheville Web site (unca.edu) and the Student Affairs Web site (unca.edu/studentaffairs) to learn more about your university. We welcome your ideas and suggestions to enhance the UNC Asheville student experience, and hope to see you on campus soon—especially for Family Weekend on Sept. 11–13!

—Mary Chakales
Director, Special Programs



Mary Chakales

A Rousing Homecoming Cheer



©Debbie Griffith

The Spirit Team energized the crowd after the Homecoming Parade, and the basketball teams prevailed—the men triumphed over Coastal Carolina 74-63, and the women downed High Point 68-59 on Feb. 21. Homecoming weekend also featured alumni reunions, including a Black Alumni reunion, inductions into the Athletics Hall of Fame, a dance, and a ceremony honoring African American professors with 25 years at UNC Asheville: Dwight and Dolly Mullen (Political Science), Dee (Literature) and Charles (Chemistry) James, and Anita White-Carter (Library Science).

UNC Asheville Wins Big South Quiz Bowl

Five UNC Asheville students put on their thinking caps and came home champions of the Fourth Annual Big South Conference Quiz Bowl this spring. They faced six challengers at Gardner-Webb University in tournament play, beating three-time champion Liberty University. Team members are seniors **David Coates** and **Robert Meehan**, juniors **Joseph Blair** and **Jennifer Guilford**, and sophomore **Josh Siary**.

"I've been on the team since 2006 and Liberty has been a powerhouse every year," team captain Meehan said. "It's been my dream to take them down—and we did."

In Quiz Bowl—"the varsity sport of the mind"—five-member teams play fast-paced rounds of questions on history, literature, science, math, sports and current events. The team with the most points at the end of each match is declared the winner, and the team with the best record at the conclusion of the tournament is declared champion. The Big South is the only athletic conference that sponsors a quiz bowl tournament.

Meehan attributes success to the liberal arts curriculum. "UNC Asheville's well-rounded courses definitely gave us an edge. Most of us are science majors and the humanities classes helped fill in our knowledge of literature and art," he said.



Quiz Bowl champs bring home Big South honors (L-R): Joseph Blair, Jennifer Guilford, David Coates and Robert Meehan

Classics student heads to Oxford on fellowship

Sometimes it's good to be at the right place at the right time. Ask **Megan Miller** '09 (Classics), who at an inopportune moment got word that she won the \$27,000 Lionel Pearson Award to study at Oxford University (England) next year. "My cell phone was on vibrate but I had to leave the American Philological Society meeting during a moment of silence for a deceased colleague," Miller said. All that's in hindsight as she pursues a doctorate in Classical Languages and Literature at one of the most prestigious universities in the world, besting four finalists from Ivy League schools for the prize.

Is the straight-A student worried about the rigor of Oxford? "No. The faculty here have prepared me to excel at Oxford," Miller said. "I felt like the underdog, going up against students from Princeton, Brown and the University of Chicago for the award, but I have no doubts about my abilities in Latin and Greek." After a summer wedding to a fellow Classics student **Jeremy Parrish** '07, Miller leaves for Oxford this fall. Her goal: teach at a university like UNC Asheville, where classes are small and students can work closely with faculty on research, she said.



Megan Miller



©Matt Rose

Meet Rocky I, Our New Live Mascot

The university's new bulldog mascot made his exuberant entrance on the campus scene at the Homecoming basketball game Feb. 21. Cheered on by a sold-out crowd at the Coastal Carolina game (UNC Asheville 74, Coastal 63), **Rocky I** took center court with Chancellor Anne Ponder before circling Justice Gym with owner **Alexis Johnson** '97. She and husband, **Ed Johnson** '96, a math professor, are keepers of the 2-year-old rescued white Victorian bulldog, the fifth live mascot in school history.

The mascot committee sought a rescued bulldog, and the Johnsons found a match through an organization in Georgia. "He was extremely gregarious and friendly, and he absolutely thrives on attention, so it was clear he'd be a perfect mascot," Ed Johnson said. Victorian bulldogs, a new breed resembling 18th- and 19th-century bulldogs, are taller than English bulldogs, with broad faces, large heads, wide chests and short, smooth coats. They're affectionate and athletic.

"When I met Rocky, I knew that he was the dog for UNC Asheville," said **Kevan Frazier**, associate vice chancellor for alumni relations.

Star Quality



The University Chamber Singers ran into Adam Sandler while performing at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in December 2008. The Chamber Singers were the only North Carolina group invited to the White House and hospital two holiday seasons in a row, in 2007 and 2008, thanks to a parent connection—Amy Schussheim, mother of **Naomi Taub '10** (Literature), who works at Walter Reed.



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Dates to Remember

Through April 17 *Potential Unlimited:*
Educational Exhibit on People
with Disabilities

April 14–21 Multimedia Arts
& Sciences
8th annual
juried student
exhibition



April 17–18 National
Conference on
Undergraduate
Research



April 22 Earth Day

April 28 Annual Academic
and Leadership Awards
Ceremony

April 29 "Eastern North Carolina
Geography, Legends and History,"
Bland Simpson, UNC professor of
English and creative writing

May 4 Classes end

May 6–12 Final Exams

May 13 Residence halls close at 9 a.m.
to all students except graduating
seniors

May 16 Commencement

June 8 Summer term I
classes begin



July 6 Classes begin
summer term II

Aug. 18 Classes begin for fall semester

Sept. 7 Labor Day
(no classes)



Sept. 11–13 Family Weekend

Sept. 30 Nagata Shachu
(Japanese taiko
drumming
ensemble)



Oct. 12–13 Fall Break (no
classes)

Nov. 25–27 Thanksgiving Break
(no classes)

Dec. 19 Winter Commencement